

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 /084 W

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R 081450Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1924

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

SECDEF WASHDC

DIRNSA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

UNCLAS ANKARA 168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TU

SUBJ: PRESS INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

CAGLAYANGIL: US-TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: ANKARA 0096

1. IN REFTEL WE SUMMARIZED THE LENGTHY INTERVIEW WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL GAVE TO NILUFER YALCIN OF MILLIYET JANUARY 6. DUE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FONMIN'S COMMENTS CONCERNING TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING QUOTATIONS WORTH REPORTING IN FULL:

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2. IN RESPONSE TO YALCIN'S COMMENT THAT "IN 1975 TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAD ENTERED A NEW PHASE DUE TO THE EMBARGO, THE BASE CLOSURE, AND THE BEGINNINGS OF BILATERAL DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS," THE FONMIN REPLIED, "THINKING THAT TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DEPENDS ON THE BASES, NAMELY THAT IF THE BASES WERE ELIMINATED THEN TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WOULD END, IS AN OPINION WHICH DENIES THE STRONG TIES WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. IF THE CONTINUATION OF OUR FRIENDSHIP DEPENDS ON THE BASES, THEN WE ARE NOT (RPT NOT) EACH OTHER'S FRIENDS BUT FRIENDS OF THE BASES."

3. WHEN ASKED IF IT WERE INDEED TRUE THAT TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAD BEEN IRREPARABLY DAMAGED, CAGLAYANGIL ANSWERED, "IT IS A MISTAKE TO THINK THAT THERE WILL BE A COOLNESS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES IF THE BASES ARE NOT RPT NOT) REACTIVATED. TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES ARE ALLIED BECAUSE OF THEIR PHILOSOPHIES AND COMMON DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. WE STILL NEED NATO. YES, IT IS TRUE THAT CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED SINCE NATO WAS FOUNDED. HOWEVER, THE REAL REASONS FOR NATO'S GENESIS HAVE NOT (RPT NOT) DISAPPEARED. BECAUSE OF THIS I DO NOT (RPT NOT) SHARE THE OPINION THAT OUR OLD FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE REVIVED AFTER THE EMBARGO. TRUE, THE EMBARGO DECISION HAS SHAKEN MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. THIS MUST BE ACCEPTED. HOWEVER, THESE THINGS HAPPEN IN FOREIGN RELATIONS. TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP HAS ENOUGH STRENGTH TO OVERCOME SUCH TRANSITORY TROUBLES. I HOPE THAT OUR COOPERATION WITH OUR GREAT ALLY WILL AGAIN RETURN TO A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COURSE."

4. COMMENT: IN RECENT YEARS IT HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY FOR TURKISH CRITICS OF THE UNITED STATES TO BE QUITE OUTSPOKEN WHILE OUR FRIENDS HAVE USUALLY REMAINED SILENT. WE FIND THE FACT THAT FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL HAS CHOSEN TO BREAK WITH THIS PRACTICE AT THIS TIME PARTICULARLY REFRESHING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA00168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760007-0015
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760177/aaaacqoz.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ANKARA 96
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL: US-TURKISH RELATIONS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TU, US, (CAYLAYANGIL, IHSAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006